



# **2024 ANNUAL CAMPUS SECURITY AND FIRE SAFETY REPORT**

**Appalachian**  
STATE UNIVERSITY

Thank you for reviewing the 2024 Annual Security and Fire Safety Report for Appalachian State University in North Carolina. All campuses at Appalachian State University adhere to uniform policies, procedures, guidelines, and practices regarding safety and emergency preparedness. This report includes crime and fire statistics for 2021, 2022 and 2023.

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# Introduction

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## Purpose of the Annual Security and Fire Safety Report

Welcome to Appalachian State University's ("App State" or the "University") Annual Security and Fire Safety Report ("ASFSR"), a comprehensive guide to safety policies, procedures and resources for our campus community. It is designed to ensure that students, prospective students, parents, employees and the public can access comprehensive information and essential knowledge of the safety procedures, practices, programs and support services App State utilizes to keep our campus community safe and its facilities secure. It includes valuable information about the various safety programs and tools available to our community and statistics regarding crime in our area.

At App State, gathering and reporting data for the ASFSR is a team effort involving several campus departments and law enforcement. App State collects information from incident reports, arrest records and disciplinary referrals to ensure accurate crime and fire statistics. Regular checks are conducted to verify this data.

The report is publicly accessible online on [App State's Clery](#) page and is emailed to App State's students, faculty and staff. If you require assistance with accessing the content of the ASFSR or need the document in an alternative accessible format, please contact either:

- [Office of Access and Equity: Equal Opportunity](#) at 828-262-2144 or visit room 123 I.G. Greer Hall at 401 Academy Street, Appalachian State University, Boone, NC 28608.
- [Office of Access and Equity: Disability Resources](#) at 828-262-3056 or visit suite 112 Anne Belk Hall at 224 Joyce Lawrence Lane, Appalachian State University, Boone, NC 28608.

Thank you for reviewing this report and for your dedication to the well-being of our campus community.

## A Message from Interim Chancellor Heather Norris

App State's Annual Security and Fire Safety Report provides a comprehensive overview of our campus safety policies, procedures, and resources. It includes valuable information about the various safety programs and tools available to our community and statistics regarding crime in our area.

I encourage you to review this report and utilize its insights to enhance your experience here at App State. We aim to ensure you have a safe and fulfilling time on our campuses and make the most of the available opportunities.

I am grateful to all the campus and community partners who collaborated to create this report. Their dedication contributes significantly to our ongoing efforts to cultivate a safe and inclusive environment for everyone at App State.

# Appalachian State University

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As a premier public institution, Appalachian State University prepares students to lead purposeful lives. App State is one of 17 campuses in the University of North Carolina System, with a national reputation for innovative teaching and opening access to a high-quality, affordable education for all. The university enrolls more than 21,000 students, has a low student-to-faculty ratio and offers more than 150 undergraduate and 80 graduate majors at its Boone and Hickory campuses and through App State Online. Learn more at <https://www.appstate.edu>.

## **App State's Vision and Strategic Direction**

App State aspires to be the destination institution for dedicated students who seek challenging academic programs and co-curricular experiences, engaged faculty and a vibrant campus culture that will shape them into engaged and responsible global citizens. Inspired by the ideal of a sustainable community, we seek to deliver the Southeast's best comprehensive, progressive higher education to students.

## **Overview of the Clery Act**

The Jeanne Clery Act requires colleges and universities to disclose information about campus crime and security policies, provide timely warnings, maintain a daily crime log and publish an annual security report. Institutions must also have procedures for reporting crimes and emergencies, emergency notifications, fire safety and addressing sexual and interpersonal-based violence. The University's Clery Act Compliance Policy, detailed in [University Policy 301.4.](#), outlines App State's procedures for preparing the ASFSR.

## **Clery Act Geography**

App State Clery geography encompasses all locations within the University's main campuses in Boone and Hickory, North Carolina, and the Leon Levine Hall of Health Sciences. This entails on-campus property, non-campus property, and public property immediately adjacent to and accessible from the campus. The geographical categories can be viewed on [App State's Interactive Campus Map](#).

## ***On-Campus Buildings or Property***

On-campus property is any building or property owned or controlled by the University within the contiguous geographic area of both main and branch campuses. This definition also covers University-owned or controlled buildings, even if operated by a third-party, that are used by the University in direct support of or in a manner related to its educational mission. Crime statistics for residence halls, including the Sleep Inn in Boone, North Carolina, are included in these statistics.

## ***Non-Campus Building or Property***

Non-campus buildings or properties include those owned or controlled by the University or any building or property (other than a branch or separate campus) owned or controlled by the University that is used in direct support of its educational mission, is frequently used by students, including Fraternity and



Sorority life housing, and is outside the boundaries of campus, which may include sites utilized for university-sponsored travel.

App State operated three non-campus, site-based satellite campuses until August 2023:

- The Appalachian Center at Hickory, located on the campus of [Catawba Valley Community College](#) in Hickory, North Carolina.
- The Appalachian Center at Burke, located on the campus of [Western Piedmont Community College](#) in Morganton, North Carolina.
- The Appalachian Center at Caldwell, located on the campus of [Caldwell Community College & Technical Institute](#) in Hudson, North Carolina.

These three locations are included in our 2024 ASFSR Crime Statistics by Campus section, which covers the period up to the closure date of August 20, 2023. We recommend that anyone interested in reviewing these statistics, please review the individual Annual Security and Fire Safety Reports, security policies and procedures, and emergency preparedness plans for each campus.

### ***Public Property***

Public property refers to any building or area not owned or controlled by the University. This includes thoroughfares, streets, sidewalks, and parking facilities within the main and separate campuses or immediately adjacent to and accessible from the main and separate campuses.

## **Clery Act Qualifying Crimes Definitions**

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Under the Clery Act, universities are required to disclose information about crime on and around their campuses. The Clery Act defines these crimes based on federal guidelines. It is broken into four categories:

- Criminal offenses.
- Hate crimes.
- Violence Against Women's Act (VAWA) crimes and arrests.
- Disciplinary referrals for drug, alcohol, and weapon violations.

These classification definitions are sourced from the [FBI Uniform Crime Reporting System](#) and are mandatory for categorizing Clery Crimes and Incidents.

### **Criminal Offenses**

Murder/Manslaughter — The willful killing of one human being by another.

Manslaughter by Negligence — The killing of another person through gross negligence.

Sexual Assault (Sex Offenses) — Any sexual act directed against another person without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent.

- Rape — The penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person without the consent of the victim.

- Fondling — The touching of the private body parts of another person for the purpose of sexual gratification without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of their age or because of their temporary or permanent mental incapacity.
- Incest — Non-forcible sexual intercourse between persons who are related to each other within the degrees wherein marriage is prohibited by law.
- Statutory Rape — Non-forcible sexual intercourse with a person who is under the statutory age of consent (16 years of age).

Robbery — Taking or attempting to take anything of value from the care, custody or control of a person or persons by force, threat of force or violence and/or by putting the victim in fear.

Aggravated Assault — Unlawful attack by one person upon another for the purpose of inflicting severe or aggravated bodily injury. This type of assault is usually accompanied using a weapon or by means likely to produce death or great bodily harm.

Burglary — Unlawful entry of a structure to commit a felony or a theft.

Motor Vehicle Theft — Theft or attempted theft of a motor vehicle.

Arson — Willful or malicious burning or attempt to burn, with or without intent to defraud, a dwelling house, public building, motor vehicle or aircraft, personal property of another, etc.

## **Hate Crimes**

Hate crimes are criminal offenses (listed above, apart from manslaughter by negligence) that manifest evidence of the victim being intentionally selected because of the perpetrator's bias against the victim. In addition to those offenses, the crimes listed below are also included in the Clery Act statistics only if they are also hate crimes.

Larceny/Theft — Includes pocket picking, purse snatching, shoplifting, theft from building, theft from motor vehicle, theft of motor vehicle parts or accessories and all other types of larceny.

Simple Assault — Unlawful physical attack by one person upon another where the offender does not display a weapon and the victim does not suffer any obvious severe or aggravated bodily injury involving apparent broken bones, loss of teeth, possible internal injury, severe laceration or loss of consciousness.

Intimidation — Unlawfully placing another person in reasonable fear of bodily harm using threatening words and/or other conduct but without displaying a weapon or subjecting the victim to an actual physical attack.

Destruction/Damage/Vandalism or Property (except arson) — Willfully or maliciously destroying, damaging, defacing, or otherwise injuring real or personal property without the consent of the owner or the person having custody or control of it.

## ***Categories of Bias:***

Although there are many possible categories of bias, under the Clery Act, only the following eight categories are reported:

Race Bias — A preformed negative attitude toward a group of people who possess common physical characteristics, such as color of skin, eyes, hair, and/or facial features, that are genetically transmitted by



descent and heredity which distinguish them as a distinct division of humankind such as Asian, Hispanic or Black, etc.

Religious Bias — A preformed negative opinion or attitude toward a group of persons who share the same religious beliefs regarding the origin and purpose of the universe and the existence or nonexistence of a supreme being, such as Catholics, Jews, Protestants, Atheists, etc.

Sexual Orientation Bias — A preformed negative opinion or attitude toward a group of people based on their actual or perceived sexual orientation. “Sexual orientation” is the term for a person’s physical, romantic, and/or emotional attraction to members of the same and/or opposite sex, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, heterosexual individuals, etc.

Gender Bias — A preformed negative opinion or attitude toward a person or group of people based on their actual or perceived gender, such as male, female or non-binary, etc.

Gender Identity Bias — A preformed negative opinion or attitude toward a person or group of people based on their actual or perceived gender identity, such as a bias against transgender or gender non-conforming individuals. “Gender non-conforming” describes a person who does not conform to the gender-based expectations of society. A gender non-conforming person may or may not be a lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender person, but may be perceived as such.

Ethnicity Bias — A preformed negative opinion or attitude toward a group of people whose members identify with each other through a common heritage, often consisting of a common language, common culture (often including a shared religion), and/or ideology that stresses common ancestry. The concept of ethnicity differs from the closely related term “race” in that race refers to a grouping based mostly upon biological criteria, while ethnicity also encompasses additional cultural factors.

National Origin Bias — A preformed negative opinion or attitude toward a group of people based on their actual or perceived country of birth. This bias may be against people who have a name or accent associated with a national origin group, participate in certain customs associated with a national origin group, or are married to or associated with people of a certain national origin.

Disability Bias — A preformed negative opinion or attitude toward a group of persons based on their physical or mental impairments, whether such disability is temporary or permanent, congenital, or acquired by heredity, accident, injury, advanced age or illness.

## **Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Crimes**

Dating Violence — Violence committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim. The existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on the reporting party’s statement and with consideration of:

- The length of the relationship.
- The type of relationship.
- The frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.

Domestic Violence — A felony or misdemeanor crime of violence committed by:

- A current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim.
- By a person with whom the victim shares a child in common.

- By a person who is cohabitating with, or has cohabitated with, the victim as a spouse or intimate partner.
- By a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction in which the crime of violence occurred.
- By any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person's acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction in which the crime of violence occurred.

**Stalking** — Engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for the person's safety or the safety of others or suffer substantial emotional distress.

- "Course of conduct" means two or more acts, including, but not limited to, acts in which the stalker directly, indirectly, or through third parties, by any action, method, device, or means, follows, monitors, observes, surveils, threatens, or communicates to or about a person, or interferes with a person's property.
- "Reasonable person" means a reasonable person under similar circumstances and with similar identities to the victim.
- "Substantial emotional distress" means significant mental suffering or anguish that may, but does not necessarily, require medical or other professional treatment or counseling.

### **Arrest and Referrals for Disciplinary Action**

Arrests and disciplinary referrals are essential for campus safety reporting. An arrest involves law enforcement apprehending someone for an alleged violation of criminal law, while a disciplinary referral notifies the University of a student's alleged policy violation.

The below are in accordance with the North Carolina State General Statutes:

**Drug/Narcotic Violations** — The unlawful possession, distribution, sale, purchase, use, transportation, importation, cultivation and/or manufacturing of any controlled drug or narcotic substance and the equipment or devices utilized in their preparation and/or use.

**Liquor Law Violations** — The unlawful possession, sale, transportation, manufacturing, or furnishing of alcohol to a minor (under 21 years) or maintaining an unlawful drinking place.

*Please note that the Clery Act does not require reporting "public drunkenness" unless under 21 nor the reporting of DUI/DWI offenses.*

**Illegal Weapon Violations** — The unlawful possession or control of any firearm, deadly weapon, illegal knife, or explosive device while on any property of App State except as required in the lawful course of business (i.e., sworn law enforcement personnel).

### **Incidents and Crimes Not Reported on ASFSR**

App State's Clery Statistical Disclosures do not include all crimes. Specifically, the following crimes are not included:

Non-Clery Crimes — Only crimes identified by the Clery Act and defined by the [FBI's Uniform Code Reporting Handbook](#) are reported on the University's ASFSR. Clery-reportable crimes can be located in [App State's Daily Crime Log](#).

Unfounded Crimes—If the Appalachian State University Police Department (“APD”) or other sworn or commissioned law enforcement personnel investigate a reported crime and find it to be false or baseless, the crime is “unfounded,” and it will not be reported on App State’s Clery Statistical disclosures.

For a crime to be reported in App State’s ASFSR and Daily Crime Log, it must have occurred on campus, in or on a non-campus building or property, or on public property as defined by the Clery Act.

### Crime Statistics by Campus

App State’s ASFSR covers the three most recent calendar years and includes comprehensive statistics on criminal offenses, hate crimes, VAWA offenses, arrests, and referrals for disciplinary actions reported within this timeframe.

In 2022, App State established a new branch campus in Hickory, North Carolina, to expand higher education access in the Hickory-Lenoir-Morganton Metro Area. This campus opened in fall 2023. Therefore, there are no crime statistics to report for 2021 and 2022 for the Hickory campus.

Hickory and the three site-based satellite campuses do not offer on-campus residential student housing. Additionally, in 2024, App State’s Leon Levine Hall of Health Sciences will be recategorized as a branch campus, previously part of the primary Boone campus. For years prior to 2024, the crime statistics for this area are included in the primary Boone campus data. Starting in 2024, statistics for the new campus will be reported separately.

#### Criminal Offenses

Boone Campus					
Offense	Year	On-Campus Location	Residential Student Housing <i>(subtotal of on-campus)</i>	Non-Campus Location	Public Property
Murder/ Non-Negligent Manslaughter	2021	0	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0
Manslaughter by Negligence	2021	0	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0
Rape	2021	8	8	0	0
	2022	15	11	1	0
	2023	8	8	0	0
Fondling	2021	4	4	2	0
	2022	4	3	0	0
	2023	4	2	1	0

Incest	2021	0	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0
Statutory Rape	2021	0	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0
Robbery	2021	0	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0
Aggravated Assault	2021	0	0	0	0
	2022	1	1	0	0
	2023	1	1	0	0
Burglary	2021	8	7	0	0
	2022	2	2	0	0
	2023	3	1	1	0
Motor Vehicle Theft	2021	1	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	2	0
	2023	0	0	1	0
Arson	2021	0	0	0	0
	2022	1	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0	0

Appalachian Center at Burke				
Offense	Year	On-Campus Location	Non-Campus Location	Public Property
Murder/ Non-Negligent Manslaughter	2021	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0
Manslaughter by Negligence	2021	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0
Rape	2021	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0
Fondling	2021	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0
Incest	2021	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0
Statutory Rape	2021	0	0	0

	2022	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0
Robbery	2021	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0
Aggravated Assault	2021	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0
Burglary	2021	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0
Motor Vehicle Theft	2021	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0
Arson	2021	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0

Appalachian Center at Caldwell				
Offense	Year	On-Campus Location	Non-Campus Location	Public Property
Murder/ Non-Negligent Manslaughter	2021	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0
Manslaughter by Negligence	2021	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0
Rape	2021	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0
Fondling	2021	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0
Incest	2021	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0
Statutory Rape	2021	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0
Robbery	2021	0	0	0

	2022	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0
Aggravated Assault	2021	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0
Burglary	2021	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0
Motor Vehicle Theft	2021	0	0	0
	2022	1	0	0
	2023	0	0	0
Arson	2021	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0

Appalachian Center at Hickory				
Offense	Year	On-Campus Location	Non-Campus Location	Public Property
Murder/ Non-Negligent Manslaughter	2021	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0
Manslaughter by Negligence	2021	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0
Rape	2021	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0
Fondling	2021	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0
Incest	2021	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0
Statutory Rape	2021	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0
Robbery	2021	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0
Aggravated Assault	2021	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0
Burglary	2021	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0
Motor Vehicle Theft	2021	0	0	0

	2022	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0
Arson	2021	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0



Hickory Campus				
Offense	Year	On-Campus Location	Non-Campus Location	Public Property
Murder/ Non-Negligent Manslaughter	2023	0	0	0
Manslaughter by Negligence	2023	0	0	0
Rape	2023	0	0	0
Fondling	2023	0	0	0
Incest	2023	0	0	0
Statutory Rape	2023	0	0	0
Robbery	2023	0	0	0
Aggravated Assault	2023	0	0	0
Burglary	2023	0	0	0
Motor Vehicle Theft	2023	0	0	0
Arson	2023	0	0	0

## VAWA Crimes

Boone Campus					
Offense	Year	On-Campus Location	Residential Student Housing (subtotal of on-campus)	Non-Campus Location	Public Property
Dating Violence	2021	1	1	1	0
	2022	6	3	0	0
	2023	3	2	0	0
Domestic Violence	2021	2	2	0	0
	2022	1	0	1	0
	2023	1	1	0	0
Stalking	2021	5	0	1	0
	2022	15	5	0	0
	2023	12	2	0	0

Appalachian Center at Burke				
Offense	Year	On-Campus Location	Non-Campus Location	Public Property
Dating Violence	2021	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0
Domestic Violence	2021	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0
Stalking	2021	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0

Appalachian Center at Caldwell				
Offense	Year	On-Campus Location	Non-Campus Location	Public Property
Dating Violence	2021	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0
Domestic Violence	2021	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0
Stalking	2021	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0

Appalachian Center at Hickory				
Offense	Year	On-Campus Location	Non-Campus Location	Public Property
Dating Violence	2021	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0
Domestic Violence	2021	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0
Stalking	2021	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0

Hickory Campus				
Offense	Year	On-Campus Location	Non-Campus Location	Public Property
Dating Violence	2023	0	0	0
Domestic Violence	2023	0	0	0
Stalking	2023	0	0	0

## Hate Crimes

### *Boone Campus*

In 2021, there was one on-campus report of destruction/damage/vandalism of property incident characterized by sexual orientation. There were no reported for the 2022 or 2023 years.

### *Appalachian Center at Burke*

No reported hate crimes for the 2021, 2022, or 2023 years.

***Appalachian Center at Caldwell***

No reported hate crimes for the 2021, 2022, or 2023 years.

***Appalachian Center at Hickory***

No reported hate crimes for the 2021, 2022, or 2023 years.

***Hickory Campus***

No reported hate crimes for the 2023 year.

**Arrest and Referrals for Disciplinary Action**

Boone Campus					
Offense	Year	On-Campus Location	Residential Student Housing (subtotal of on-campus)	Non-Campus Location	Public Property
<u>Arrests</u> Liquor Law Violations	2021	60	44	2	9
	2022	43	27	6	33
	2023	43	22	0	13
<u>Disciplinary Referrals</u> Liquor Law Violations	2021	270	252	5	7
	2022	348	314	0	31
	2023	404	355	4	12
<u>Arrests</u> Drug Related	2021	37	16	4	10
	2022	37	10	4	27
	2023	22	13	5	9
<u>Disciplinary Referrals</u> Drug Related	2021	115	59	11	7
	2022	166	78	1	7
	2023	136	72	12	4
<u>Arrests</u> Weapons	2021	2	1	0	0
	2022	0	0	0	5
	2023	3	2	1	2
<u>Disciplinary Referrals</u> Weapons	2021	3	1	0	0
	2022	4	4	0	0
	2023	2	1	2	0

Appalachian Center at Burke				
Offense	Year	On-Campus Location	Non-Campus Location	Public Property
<u>Arrests</u> Liquor Law Violations	2021	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0
<u>Disciplinary Referrals</u> Liquor Law Violations	2021	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0
<u>Arrests</u> Drug Related	2021	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0
<u>Disciplinary Referrals</u> Drug Related	2021	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0
<u>Arrests</u> Weapons	2021	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0
<u>Disciplinary Referrals</u> Weapons	2021	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0

Appalachian Center at Caldwell				
Offense	Year	On-Campus Location	Non-Campus Location	Public Property
<u>Arrests</u> Liquor Law Violations	2021	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0
<u>Disciplinary Referrals</u> Liquor Law Violations	2021	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0
<u>Arrests</u> Drug Related	2021	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0
<u>Disciplinary Referrals</u> Drug Related	2021	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0
<u>Arrests</u> Weapons	2021	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0
<u>Disciplinary Referrals</u> Weapons	2021	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0

Appalachian Center at Hickory				
Offense	Year	On-Campus Location	Non-Campus Location	Public Property
<u>Arrests</u> Liquor Law Violations	2021	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0
<u>Disciplinary Referrals</u> Liquor Law Violations	2021	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0
<u>Arrests</u> Drug Related	2021	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0
<u>Disciplinary Referrals</u> Drug Related	2021	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0
<u>Arrests</u> Weapons	2021	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0
<u>Disciplinary Referrals</u> Weapons	2021	0	0	0
	2022	0	0	0
	2023	0	0	0

Hickory Campus				
Offense	Year	On-Campus Location	Non-Campus Location	Public Property
<u>Arrests</u> Liquor Law Violations	2023	0	0	0
<u>Disciplinary Referrals</u> Liquor Law Violations	2023	0	0	0
<u>Arrests</u> Drug Related	2023	0	0	0
<u>Disciplinary Referrals</u> Drug Related	2023	0	0	0
<u>Arrests</u> Weapons	2023	0	0	0
<u>Disciplinary Referrals</u> Weapons	2023	0	0	0

## Unfounded Crime Reporting

### Boone Campus

- The Boone campus recorded one unfounded crime in 2021 and two in 2022, with no unfounded crimes reported in 2023.

### ***Appalachian Center at Burke***

- No unfounded crimes for the 2021, 2022, or 2023 years.

### ***Appalachian Center at Caldwell***

- No unfounded crimes for the 2021, 2022, or 2023 years.

### ***Appalachian Center at Hickory***

- No unfounded crimes for the 2021, 2022, or 2023 years.

### ***Hickory Campus***

- No unfounded crimes for the 2023 year.

## **Reporting Criminal Actions or Other Emergencies**

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App State maintains numerous public safety policies detailed in the [University Policy Manual Section 300](#).

### **Appalachian State University Police Department**

The [Appalachian State University Police Department](#) (“APD”) supports the University’s academic mission on all App State Clery geography by working in partnership with the campus community to prevent crime, solve problems and improve the quality of life on campus.

The department's philosophy is one of proactive community engagement, collaboration, and customer service. Its top priorities are the safety and health of the University’s community members.

The department comprises state-certified police officers, security officers, and civilian employees. This team of professionals helps to create and maintain an inclusive sense of belonging for all members of the App State community—students, faculty, staff, and visitors. Additionally, through its efforts, the department aims to be a leader in innovative public safety ideas and strategies.

APD sworn police officers are authorized to make arrests on campus property and are commissioned under North Carolina General Statutes § 115D-21.1 and § 116.40.5, which grant them full municipal law enforcement powers. They receive training comparable to that of county and municipal officers and are authorized to carry firearms, make arrests, and conduct investigations on University property.

To ensure the well-being of the community, App State maintains a dedicated 24-hour police department. Prompt reporting of incidents, regardless of how or where someone chooses to report, is crucial for the safety of the entire App State community. All incidents should be immediately reported to APD.

Crimes and suspicious activities can be reported in the following ways:

- In a medical or life emergency, you should **ALWAYS** call **911**.
- The non-campus emergency line by dialing **2-8000** from an on-campus phone. If calling from elsewhere, dial **828-262-8000**.

- Anyone can visit APD's locations at:
  - Boone, NC, including Leon Levine Hall — Rivers Street Parking Deck, 461 Rivers Street, Boone, NC 28608. Available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
  - Hickory, NC — 800 17th St NW, Hickory, NC 28601, Room H19A. Available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

## **Reporting to Campus Security Authorities**

Although App State prefers reporting crimes or emergencies directly to APD, some may choose to report to other University officials or offices. These officials are called Campus Security Authorities ("CSA") and include individuals with significant responsibility for student and campus activities. Examples include deans, department heads, athletic coaches, community directors, resident advisors, and Student Affairs staff. If someone reports a crime or a potential crime to a CSA, the CSA must inform the APD and the Office of Access & Equity: Equal Opportunity.

In 2023, App State provided comprehensive Clery Act training to campus CSAs. Training included in-person sessions led by the Clery Compliance Coordinator and online modules through the University platform AsULearn. These sessions covered CSA responsibilities, reporting requirements and the legal framework of the Clery Act, ensuring CSAs were well-equipped to enhance campus safety.

## **Appalachian's Designated Reporting Offices**

While App State has identified numerous CSAs, App State officially designates the following official offices as places where campus community members may report crimes:

- [Appalachian Police Department](#)
- [Office of Access & Equity: Equal Opportunity](#)
- [Office of the Dean of Students](#)
- [University Housing](#)

## **Pastoral and Professional Counselors**

Pastoral and professional counselors acting within the scope of their professional license are not considered CSAs and are not required to report crimes for inclusion in this report. However, they are encouraged to share information about the various support and reporting options on campus and in the community with those they serve.

## **Voluntary, Confidential Reporting**

Prompt reporting of crimes is essential for the safety of our community. We encourage App State community members to report crimes promptly and to support crime prevention efforts. Confidential reports may be filed depending on the crime's circumstances. Confidential reports keep personally identifying information private but provide the University with information to help ensure the reporting party's safety and the safety of others. Confidential reports also allow App State to compile accurate records on the number and types of incidents occurring on campus, which are counted and disclosed in the ASFSR. The University may not be able to guarantee confidentiality.



## Anonymous Reporting

While App State will work to respond to and remedy the allegations reported anonymously appropriately, please be advised that App State's response may be limited.

Anonymous Reporting can be completed through:

- [Equal Opportunity's Reporting a Concern](#)
- [APD Report a Crime](#)
- Watauga County Crime Stoppers at 828-268-6959
- Catawba County Sheriff's Office [Give a Tip](#) or call (828) 466-2847

## Other Reporting Options

Please note that reporting to these departments may not be confidential:

- If you have concerns about a student's behavior or conduct, report to [Student Conduct](#).
- If you have concerns about a faculty's behavior associated with their position at App State, report to the Senior Vice Provost of Faculty Policies and Development within [Academic Affairs](#).
- If you have concerns about an employee's behavior (EPS, SHRA, and student) in association with their employment position at App State, report to Employee Relations within the [Office of Human Resources](#).
- If you have fraud, waste, or abuse concerns, you may anonymously report them to [Internal Audits](#).
- If you have safety concerns related to environmental health, safety, and emergency management functions, report them to the [Office of Environmental Health, Safety and Emergency Management \("EHS&EM"\)](#).
- If you have a concern about reasonably suspecting that a minor has been abused or neglected by a parent, guardian, caregiver, or staff member, report that suspicion to the appropriate County Department of Social Services ("DSS").
- Notify [Conference and Event Services](#) and APD if reporting an incident of abuse or neglect related to a University-sponsored/affiliated youth program or activity. Reports may involve minors and/or program staff and should be reported to Conference and Event Services at 828-262-7273 or [minorsoncampus@appstate.edu](mailto:minorsoncampus@appstate.edu).

## Collaboration with Law Enforcement

App State maintains strong collaborative partnerships with local and state law enforcement agencies to ensure comprehensive campus safety and security. These partnerships encompass interoperative radio capability, joint training programs, coordination for special events and collective investigation of serious incidents. APD and participating agencies can request and provide mutual aid through Interagency Mutual Aid Agreements, enhancing public and officer safety during emergencies. Additionally, routine meetings are held with all emergency service providers, including the police. The Hickory Police Department and Catawba County Sheriff's Office monitor APD's radio channel in their dispatch center.

APD monitors local law enforcement daily shift logs for incidents involving students or incidents warranting campus safety alerts. Equal Opportunity also requests crime statistics from local law enforcement agencies for inclusion in the ASFSR, focusing on crimes within Clery geography, including property owned or controlled by officially recognized student organizations.

APD has established written memoranda of understanding with local law enforcement agencies, facilitating information sharing and coordinated responses to incidents involving university students and recognized student organizations both on and off campus.

When criminal activities involving students or student organizations come to light, APD cooperates closely with external law enforcement to relay pertinent information to [Student Conduct](#) as necessary. App State mandates that recognized student organizations adhere to federal, state and local laws, university policies and the Code of Student Conduct, and reserves the right to intervene in off-campus conduct that significantly impacts university interests.

### **Local Law Enforcement**

Individuals may file a complaint, request hospital transportation, or file an official report with local law enforcement. For information pertaining to local law enforcement agencies, please see below:

- [Boone Police Department](#)
- [Blowing Rock Police Department](#)
- [Watauga County Sheriff's Office](#)
- [Hickory Police Department](#)
- [Catawba County Sheriff's Office](#)
- [North Carolina State Highway Patrol](#)
- [North Carolina Alcohol Law Enforcement Agency](#)
- [North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation](#)

## **Emergency Response, Preparedness, Notification and Alerts**

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The University's security response includes immediate notification and alert systems to inform students, faculty and staff of potential threats or emergencies in a timely manner. App State has established procedures for responding to various incidents, ranging from natural disasters to security threats, ensuring everyone on campus is well-informed and prepared to act. Regular drills, training sessions and evaluations are conducted to maintain a high readiness level and continuously improve emergency response strategies.

### **Warnings and Notification**

#### ***Crime Log***

[App State's Daily Crime Log](#) represents our Boone, Hickory and Leon Levine campuses. All crimes should be reported to local law enforcement by calling 911 or APD by calling 2-8000 from a campus phone or 828-262-8000 from any phone. Crimes may also be reported in person to APD, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, including holidays.

App State maintains a Daily Crime Log to disclose certain information about criminal incidents, alleged criminal incidents and fire incidents that occur on our Clery geography and are reported to APD. A list of 60 days of activity is available online or by request at APD. Crimes may be temporarily withheld from the Crime Log when the disclosure will jeopardize the confidentiality and safety of a victim or the integrity of an ongoing investigation, may cause a suspect to flee or evade, or may result in the destruction of evidence.

### ***Timely Warnings***

In certain cases, App State's Chief of Police and other designated campus individuals will determine if a situation requires the release of a timely warning. This ensures that timely warnings regarding campus safety can be issued when necessary.

A timely warning may be issued to inform the University about incidents on campus that pose a serious or ongoing threat, of any crime defined by the Clery Act and the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Program. The decision to issue a timely warning is based on assessing factors such as the nature of the crime, the potential threat to students and employees and the risk of compromising law enforcement efforts.

Timely warnings are triggered by Clery Act crimes and incidents that have already occurred but present an ongoing threat to App State's Clery geography. These warnings are issued as soon as relevant information is available and are intended to alert the campus community about serious or continuing threats while maintaining the confidentiality of victims' identities and aiding in the prevention of similar crimes.

### ***Emergency Notifications***

If there is an immediate threat to the health or safety of students or employees on App State campuses or properties, App State will immediately notify the campus community upon the confirmation of a significant emergency or dangerous situation involving an immediate threat to the health or safety of students or employees on our campuses. [University Policy 302.7 Emergency Notification System](#).

### ***Protection of Minors***

App State's [Policy 111.1](#), Protection of Minors, promotes the safety and well-being of minors trusted to the University's care. The Policy outlines what is required of all University faculty, staff, students, vendors, and visitors of App State who work with minors in university-sponsored programs or participate in third-party programs and activities that use App State property.

The policy core requires the registration of all programs involving minors, background checks every four years, and [reporting of neglect or abuse under Policy 111.2](#). It also necessitates training for staff and volunteers, sets supervision ratios, and applies these standards to non-university entities hosting minors in university facilities.

## **University Security and Alert Systems**

### ***AppState-ALERT***

[AppState-ALERT](#) is the University's 24/7 emergency messaging system. It uses a combination of text messaging, voice messaging, the siren warning system in Boone, PC desktop alerts, email and web

technologies to provide App State students, faculty and staff in Boone and Hickory with timely information in the event of a campus emergency.

Emergency notifications will be distributed to students, faculty and staff using any or all of the following methods:

- Text Messaging — Emergency notifications will be sent as text messages to all cell numbers registered with AppState-ALERT as *Emergency Cell-Text*.
- Voice Messaging — Emergency notifications will be sent as voice messages to all cell numbers registered with AppState-ALERT as *Emergency Cell-Voice*.
- Siren Warning System — During high-risk conditions, the siren will broadcast an audible warning message across the Boone campus.
- Email — Emergency notifications will be sent to every appstate.edu email address.
- Web — Emergency notifications will be posted on [App State's main websites](#), [Emergency.appstate.edu](#) and [MyASU](#).
- Desktop Alerting — Software enables the University to send emergency messages to all lab, classroom, faculty and staff PCs logged into the campus network. During an emergency, the screen will flash an emergency message until the user acknowledges the message.

You may find yourself at non-campus instructional site-based locations for some App State classes and activities. In these instances, the site-based location is responsible for managing timely warnings, emergency notifications, and events at the location, including alerting people on the property in an emergency. App State recognizes the importance of assisting students, faculty, and staff in registering for emergency alert messaging at these off-campus instructional site locations. If you need help finding where to register for emergency alerts at these locations, please contact [App State's Office of EHS&EM](#) at (828) 262-4008.

### **System Activation**

There were no sirens or emergency system activations other than announced system tests in the calendar year 2023.

### ***Testing Campus Siren and Emergency Procedures***

The University uses multiple methods to notify and communicate emergency information to the campus community. The AppState-ALERT siren warning system in Boone is designed to provide Boone campus students, staff, faculty and visitors with an audible notification of an emergency that affects campus across multiple buildings and outdoor areas. Other than siren tests, which usually occur on the first Wednesday of every month, the siren warning system in Boone will only be activated during a high-risk, life-threatening emergency such as but limited to:

- An active shooter on or near the Boone campus
- A major hazardous material spill on or near the Boone campus

During an actual emergency in Boone, the siren will sound in a Hi/Low tone for 20 seconds, followed by a pre-recorded voice message that says, "Attention. An emergency condition exists. Seek safe shelter."

Attention. An emergency condition exists. Seek safe shelter. Attention. An emergency condition exists. Seek safe shelter."

The all-clear activation will consist of a 20-second Alert tone followed by a pre-recorded voice message that says, "All clear. The emergency is over. All clear. The emergency is over. All clear. The emergency is over."

Siren tones that will be used on the App State Boone campus include:

- Hi/Low — Used during an emergency
- Alert — Issued as an "all clear"
- Air Horn Discontinuous — Used for siren tests

App State tests its emergency siren system in Boone 12 times a year and as appropriate. Additionally, the University tests its emergency notification system and tests for and during significant upgrades as the system is periodically improved. The University community is informed via email and social media prior to each test.

**Emergency Preparedness and Exercises**

EHS&EM conducts regularly scheduled exercises every year. University departments, colleges, units, and areas can request an emergency training exercise to assess one or more components of their emergency plans or policies. Exercises are a crucial part of the comprehensive emergency management model.

In 2023, App State conducted several exercises to test campus emergency procedures, ensuring that the campus community is prepared for potential emergencies. Below is a summary of key exercises conducted during this period:

Exercise Name	Exercise Date	Exercise Format	Length of Exercise (min)	Number of Participants	Primary Facilitator
App State Active Shooter TTX 1252023	2023-12-05	Tabletop	270	46	Contractor
Active Shooter TTX-Peacock Hall WCOB	2023-11-17	Tabletop	120	35	EHS&EM
Active Shooter Drill-Academy at Middle Fork	2023-08-22	Drill	120	48	EHS&EM
2023 Pre-Season Football TTX	2023-07-27	Tabletop	180	29	EHS&EM
Active Shooter Exercise-HR 5172023	2023-05-17	Drill	90	23	EHS&EM

Active Shooter Exercise Belk Library 5162023	2023-05-16	Drill	90	76	EHS&EM
VEOCI Drill - 5/10/23	2023-05-10	Drill	60	17	EHS&EM

### ***Emergency Operations Plan***

App State's Emergency Operations Plan ("EOP") provides essential guidance for effective all-hazard emergency management tailored to the campus community. The EOP addresses a higher education institution's specific needs, risks and resources. The plan is designed to protect students, faculty, staff and visitors while maintaining the continuity of academic and operational functions during and after an emergency.

## **Other Campus Safety Features**

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The University's emergency management program and emergency preparedness initiatives, overseen by the [EHS&EM](#) are integral to ensuring a safe and inclusive campus environment, aligning with the Clery Act's emphasis on campus safety and security.

### **Chancellor's Emergency Preparedness Message**

No one knows if or when a disaster might disrupt campus operations. Recognizing the need to be prepared for any disaster — whether illness, blizzard, violent crime or another scenario—App State is always expanding and improving its campus-wide Emergency Operations Plan.

University leaders have taken steps to protect the safety and welfare of our students, faculty, staff, and campus visitors, developing guidelines for resuming campus services should a disruption occur.

## **Security of and Access to Campus Facilities**

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### **Campus Security Measures**

APD officers routinely conduct security checks of University buildings after normal business hours, on weekends, and on holidays. For access to campus facilities after hours or for special events, individuals should contact the appropriate department administrator or [Finance & Operations](#).

### **Security Maintenance of Campus Facilities**

Regular security patrols by APD officers help safeguard main campus sites in Boone and Hickory and protect locations associated with university activities during non-business hours and holidays.

### **Access Control Policies**

Access to App State buildings and property is managed to ensure the safety and security of the campus community. Most campus facilities are open to the public during normal business hours. For access after-

hours or for special events, individuals should contact the appropriate department administrator or the Office of Finance & Operations.

## **Residence Hall Security**

App State implements stringent security measures in residence halls to protect the safety of its students. Residence halls are accessible twenty-four (24) hours a day through a card access system, with residents using their student identification cards for entry. A resident must always escort guests. Each residence hall room is equipped with a secure door lock.

Residence halls are monitored by Resident Assistants (“RAs”) from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m., supported by APD officers and cadet night assistants who patrol from 11:30 p.m. to 3:30 a.m. These safety monitors perform regular safety checks and are trained to contact APD as needed. Additionally, each residence hall has a Resident Director (“RD”) or Coordinator living on-site. APD officers collaborate closely with RAs, RDs and Coordinators through the University’s Community Policing Liaison program, conducting security checks and safety presentations to enhance campus safety.

Students must lock their room doors whenever they leave and sleep at night. They must always carry the assigned room key and ID card and be prepared to present them to staff upon request. Entry and exit from residence halls should only occur through designated points, and students must ensure that only they and their guests enter using their ID without allowing unknown individuals to follow or enter without authorization.

Authorized University personnel have the right to enter and search student rooms for safety, health and administrative purposes related to the University's educational mission. Entry may occur for repairs, welfare/safety checks, inspections and other administrative needs. Health and safety inspections are conducted at least once per semester with advance notice. Confiscation of prohibited items may occur if violations of the [University Housing Policies](#), Housing Contract, or Code of Student Conduct are found and not remedied. Solicitation in residence halls, including door-to-door sales and business operations, is strictly prohibited to protect resident privacy and safety.

## **Security and Access to Off-Site Locations**

App State extends its commitment to safety and security beyond its main campus sites to off-site locations associated with university activities. Security measures at these locations are designed to protect students, faculty, staff, and visitors while maintaining the university's educational mission.

Access to off-site campus facilities is regulated to safeguard the welfare of the campus community and uphold App State's responsibilities as custodians of state resources. Individuals are encouraged to refer to the respective campus site management or contact the location security departments for specific information regarding security protocols and access procedures at off-site locations.

## **Campus Safety and Crime Prevention Programs**

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Crime Prevention at App State involves anticipating, recognizing, and evaluating crime risks, followed by proactive measures to mitigate those risks. The University emphasizes this proactive approach through various educational and informational programs tailored for faculty, staff, and students.



APD focuses on initiatives to reduce criminal opportunities and promote community responsibility for personal and collective security. Educational programs aim to increase awareness of on-campus and off-campus crime trends while equipping students with practical crime prevention strategies. For a comprehensive list of available programs, visit [APD's Educational Programs Page](#).

## **Crime Prevention Initiatives**

### ***Active Aggressor Response Training***

APD offers departments and groups training on [Active Aggressor Response Training](#), which teaches participants how to respond to an "active aggressor" in the workplace or on campus. This training includes response techniques and Q&A and is approximately 60 to 90 minutes long. It also helps individuals practice what they might do if confronted with an active aggressor.

### ***Appalachian Police Officer Development Program ("APDP")***

The [APDP](#) is a two-year program designed to equip students with the knowledge, skills, and training to become sworn police officers while completing their undergraduate or graduate degrees at App State.

In the first year of the program, and after completing cadet training, cadets will be given civilian security assignments on campus. These assignments can range from building security to special events on campus, enhancing safety measures at App State. In the second year of the program, cadets become eligible to enter the Appalachian Police Academy, where they will complete North Carolina's basic law enforcement training ("BLET") to become sworn police officers. Upon successful completion of the Academy, they continue to work part-time with APD until they complete their degrees at App State.

### ***Appalachian Safety App: RAVE Guardian Feature***

The [Appalachian Safety App](#) can turn your phone into an additional personal safety device. Download the Rave Guardian safety app to check in with family, friends, APD or others you trust to help you stay safe both on and off campus.

- [911 Feature](#) — The safety app's 911 feature will always call the nearest 911 center, regardless of the user's location. Users are encouraged to include as much information as they are comfortable providing in their profile, which they may complete within the safety app. The more information available, the better the assistance that can be provided in an emergency.

### ***Bike Registration***

APD offers a [Bike Registration](#) program for all App State students, faculty and staff. All riders are encouraged to register their bicycles to deter crime and promote safety. There is no charge for this service. All registration information is stored electronically for future reference.

### ***Campus Safety Walk***

Each year, the Student Government Association performs a campus safety walk. The walk surveys the adequacy and maintenance of campus lighting and blue light phones. It ensures that landscaping near buildings and along walkways does not obscure vision or present other safety hazards. During the walk, students can recommend adding lighting and/or blue-light emergency phones.

### ***Emergency Blue Light Phones***

Over 70 emergency [Blue Light Telephones](#) are located across the Boone campuses. These phones only require one push button, and the call will ring directly into the Appalachian Police Telecommunications Center. The blue light phone system automatically identifies the caller's location so the telecommunicator can quickly dispatch an officer to assist the caller. These phones are located at residence hall entrances, parking lots, tunnels and other strategic locations.

### ***Operation I.D.***

This service allows the campus community to check out electric engravers at no charge. APD advises faculty, staff and students about which items should be engraved for identification purposes. A property sheet to record identification numbers is also furnished to aid in the recovery of stolen items.

### ***Orientation***

This program is presented to incoming students and their parents and addresses police-related issues on campus and APD's programs and resources. Orientation programming is offered several times each year.

### ***Personal Safety Seminars***

These seminars are designed to improve student safety habits. Topics include residence hall security, personal safety habits, reporting illegal or suspicious activity, crime on campus and police services. This program allows the student to address safety-related concerns and receive an appropriate response.

### ***Rape Aggression Defense ("RAD Training")***

The Rape Aggression Defense System or [RAD Training](#) is dedicated to teaching women and men defensive concepts and techniques against various types of assault through easy, effective, and proven self-defense/martial arts tactics. This system of realistic defense helps to provide people with the knowledge to make an educated decision about resistance.

### ***Resident Assistants and Resident Director training***

At the beginning of each school year, the APD assists in training Residence Life staff on campus safety, awareness, and all police services. This includes alcohol and drug awareness information and sexual assault protocols. Equal Opportunity also trains all housing staff to include RDs and RAs concerning their role as CSAs.

### ***Security Surveys***

APD provides a service to the campus community that will help enhance physical security. On request, a survey of the facility's interior and exterior is conducted to determine its vulnerability to criminal activity. A written report with recommendations on improving security is sent to the requester.

## ***Threat Assessment Team***

A Threat Assessment Team has been established to assess both immediate and potential threats of violence, including threats that could potentially impact the University's educational environment and workspace. The University will apply all useful management tools to accomplish the dual purpose of reducing the effects of violence on victims and the University community and holding offenders of violence accountable for their actions.

## **Emergency Medical and Response**

### ***APD Officers***

As part of our ongoing efforts to provide prompt and effective responses to medical emergencies, all officers are equipped with Narcan (naloxone) and comprehensive medical kits.

- Narcan (naloxone) is a life-saving medication used to reverse the effects of opioid overdoses. It allows officers to provide immediate assistance in cases of suspected overdose, potentially saving lives while awaiting the arrival of additional medical personnel.
- The medical kits carried by officers contain essential first-aid supplies, enabling them to respond to various medical situations, including trauma, injuries, and other health emergencies.

Officers undergo regular training to ensure proficiency in administering Narcan and providing first aid in critical situations.

### ***Mountaineer Medics***

[Mountaineer Medics](#) is App State's career development and emergency medical service ("EMS") program and part of the services provided to the University community by EHS&EM. Under the administration of EHS&EM, undergraduate and graduate students with Emergency Medical Technician ("EMT") credentials work part-time to provide basic life support services to the App State community. Mountaineer Medics are managed by full-time staff members of the EHS&EM team.

The program functions as a Basic Life Support ("BLS") service in the Watauga County EMS system. Mountaineer Medics are a team of App State students and employees who are certified EMTs. As students in the program work on campus, they gain practical experience in the emergency medical field while helping to increase our campus community's access to pre-hospital care.

## **Safety Escorts and Shuttle Services**

### ***AppalCART "Night Owl" Service***

AppalCART offers [AppalCART "Night Owl" service](#) on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights until 2:30 a.m. Due to call volumes, it is recommended that AppalCART's Night Owl services be used on those nights.

## ***Mountaineer Safe Walk***

The mission of the App State Mountaineer Safe Walk service is to provide a safety escort service for students in Boone during the evening hours. The service area is strictly limited to the University's properties (parking lots, residence halls, and academic buildings) and designed to assist students who feel uncomfortable walking alone after dark.

A secure ride to and from satellite campus locations in Boone is also available from the following locations:

- Mountain Laurel Hall
- Leon Levine Hall
- 105 Parking Lot
- State Farm Parking Lot

View the Mountaineer [Safe Walk Map](#) for satellite safety escort service locations. Select a location from the menu for details. Safe Walk is available during the fall and spring semesters in Boone, excluding any holidays.

Call 828-262-7433 to request service and advise the dispatcher of your location and destination.

## ***Non-Emergency Medical Transport***

APD provides on-campus transportation for ill or injured students every day from 8 a.m. to 3 a.m., excluding holidays and scheduled academic breaks. The service ensures prompt transport to M.S. Shook Student Health Service or Watauga Medical Center for non-emergencies, subject to availability. Additionally, APD offers transportation for employees with workers' compensation injuries to Boone Urgent Care, facilitated by available personnel. If Boone Urgent Care is closed, APD will transport employees to the Watauga Medical Center Emergency Room. Please note that APD does not provide transportation for scheduled doctor appointments. Call 828-262-2150 to request service.

## **Alcohol, Drug and Weapons Policies**

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### **Alcohol and Drug Policy and Enforcement**

All campus community members share the responsibility of safeguarding this environment and are expected to uphold high standards of professional and personal conduct. The illegal or abusive use of alcohol and drugs by any member of our community undermines the educational mission and the well-being of App State's campuses.

North Carolina and federal laws strictly regulate the possession, use and distribution of alcohol and drugs. App State prohibits the abuse of alcohol, the use of illegal drugs and the misuse of medically prescribed or over-the-counter drugs. Our approach emphasizes education, counseling and disciplinary measures to minimize incidents of substance abuse and uphold community standards.

On our campuses, the possession and consumption of alcohol must comply with North Carolina state laws and [University Policy 106](#). Individuals under the age of 21 are prohibited from acquiring, possessing,

transporting or consuming alcohol on university property. Alcohol may only be possessed or consumed by those 21 years of age or older in their residence hall rooms or designated, licensed campus facilities.

App State strictly prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of controlled substances or illicit drugs by students and employees. We enforce this policy rigorously through measures consistent with state and federal laws and university policies. Our commitment extends to adhering to the [UNC Policy Manual 1300.1 Policy on Illegal Drugs](#), adopted by the Board of Governors.

To support the health and well-being of our community, App State offers comprehensive drug and alcohol education and counseling services through resources such as the [Wellness and Prevention, Counseling & Psychological Services](#), [M.S. Shook Student Health Service](#), University Housing, and APD. These services aim to promote responsible decision-making and provide support to those affected by substance abuse.

For further details on our policies and resources related to drugs and alcohol, please refer to the University's Drug and Alcohol Prevention Program (DAAPP) Annual Report.

## **Alcohol and Drug Education Programs**

### ***Alcohol and Drug Awareness***

APD offers comprehensive awareness programs on alcohol and drug abuse to the campus community. These sessions include information on underage drinking, binge drinking, drug identification with Drug Dogs demonstrations, effects on health, and legal implications both on and off campus. Each program concludes with a question-and-answer session to address community concerns and provide further education on responsible behavior.

### ***Brief Alcohol Screening and Intervention for College Students (BASICS)***

[BASICS](#) serves students individually, providing a personalized feedback report and a confidential session with a trained counselor. The goal of BASICS is to help students determine and develop a strategy for a safe, healthy, and low-risk lifestyle regarding alcohol and substance use choices to achieve academic success and personal satisfaction.

### ***Mountaineer Recovery Community (MRC)***

[MRC](#) offers support to students who are in recovery, want to be in recovery, or wish to support others on their recovery journey. MRC assists in everyone's unique recovery by preventing relapse, encouraging autonomy, providing support, increasing academic success, and offering a safe space on campus to process, grow, and reflect. The MRC Lounge is open to students from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding specific group meeting times.

### ***Mountaineer Recovery Community Ally Training***

Wellness and Prevention Services provides training concerning the support of those struggling with substance use through teaching students, faculty, and staff how to be an ally for individuals in recovery from addiction.

### ***Overdose Prevention Training***

Wellness and Prevention Services' Overdose Prevention Training is designed for students, faculty, and staff on overdose prevention strategies, signs and symptoms of an overdose, and how to be an ally for individuals in recovery from addiction.

### ***Party Smart***

Also, through Wellness & Prevention Services' this training focused on educating students on the effects of alcohol regarding decision-making, blood alcohol concentration, misperceptions of normal substance use, and developing and engaging in harm reduction strategies with substance use. Additionally, it trains students how to respond to negative consequences such as overdose, alcohol poisoning, and intimate partner violence.

### ***Substance and Addictions Counseling***

[Substance and Addictions Counseling](#) is an opportunity for students to explore their overall health and well-being concerning one's personal use of alcohol and/or drugs or someone else's use of alcohol and/or drugs.

### ***Possession of Weapons on Campus***

[North Carolina General Statute §14-269.2](#) prohibits anyone other than police officers to carry or possess firearms or weapons on campus. The only exception is for individuals with a legal concealed handgun permit, who may store their handgun in a locked vehicle within a closed compartment. Weapons under this policy include BB guns, air rifles, paintball guns, stun guns, knives, such as Bowie knives and daggers, slingshots, leaded canes, switchblades, blackjacks, metallic knuckles and any sharp instruments not used for food preparation, instruction, or maintenance, excluding unaltered nail files and clips. This law is strictly enforced to ensure campus safety.

## **Response, Prevention and Disciplinary Action to Sex-Based Prohibited Conduct**

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App State is committed to fostering a campus environment where all individuals feel safe, respected and supported. Our policies on sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking ("Sex-Based Misconduct") are integral to this commitment, outlining clear policies and procedures for preventing, reporting and addressing these forms of misconduct.

The University strictly prohibits all acts of interpersonal violence, including sex-based misconduct, committed by members of the University community, regardless of where the alleged incident occurred. In addition to potential criminal investigation and prosecution, students, staff, and faculty may face disciplinary action for violating the Code of Student Conduct or other [University Policies](#). Individuals found responsible for such violations may face disciplinary sanctions, including expulsion for students and termination of employment for employees.

The University's [Sexual Offense Response Policy](#) explains the campus' policy regarding rape, how the University goes about helping victims, and provides information to victims about what they should do

after a rape. This information can be found on APD's page, which explains the University's response to these situations.

At App State, Equal Opportunity oversees the University's response to reports of dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. The University is committed to fostering an institutional environment free of discrimination and harassment.

The Office of Student Conduct collaborates with Equal Opportunity when handling incidents involving students. Similarly, incidents involving employees are addressed in collaboration with Equal Opportunity through the Office of Human Resources and Academic Affairs. If a policy violation is substantiated, these offices will determine the appropriate disciplinary outcomes according to the relevant regulatory and guiding policies.

## Reporting

All employees must report any information to Equal Opportunity as promptly as possible, except for confidential employees acting in an official confidential role such as Counseling and Psychological Services, M.S. Shook Student Health Services, University Ombuds Office, pastoral counselors, and Student Legal Services. Please use the form below to make a report:

- [Office of Access and Equity: Equal Opportunity's Reporting a Concern Form](#)

## Disciplinary Proceedings and Determination

University [Policy 110 Discrimination and Harassment](#) supports the University's commitment to creating and maintaining an equitable and institutional environment free from discrimination, harassment, retaliation, and sex-based misconduct. This policy addresses prohibited conduct that is averse to the University's commitment to preventing discrimination and harassment and provides oversight and an administrative framework for reporting, investigating, adjudicating, and resolving violations of this policy.

[Equal Opportunity's Resolution Procedures](#) outline various disciplinary proceedings and detail steps, anticipated timelines, and decision-making processes. They also guide filing complaints and explain how the University selects the appropriate proceeding based on the specific circumstances of each allegation. Additionally, the policy defines the standard of evidence applied during disciplinary proceedings. Furthermore, they comprehensively cover the protective measures offered to victims following allegations.

In 2024, Appalachian State University became subject to an ongoing Title IX injunction. During this period, Equal Opportunity's Title IX Procedures were aligned with the 2020 Title IX Regulations to ensure full compliance with federal mandates and to maintain a consistent and legally sound framework for addressing sex-based misconduct.

The Title IX Resolution Procedures are applicable to students, employees and third parties when sex-based discrimination or sex-based harassment conduct occurs:

- On University grounds or other property owned or controlled by the University; or
- In the context of a University employment or education program or activity, including but not limited to, locations, internships, placements, events or circumstances over which the University has substantial control over both the Respondent and the context in which the conduct occurs; or



- In any building owned or controlled by a student organization that the University officially recognizes; and
- Within the United States.

If reported conduct does not fall within the scope of the Title IX Resolution Procedures, Equal Opportunity's Discrimination and Harassment Procedures provide the administrative framework for addressing alleged violations of prohibited conduct under University Policy 110. These procedures are subject to modification upon the resolution of the injunction and can be accessed via [EO Procedures](#).

The procedures are designed to guarantee prompt, fair, and impartial processes from the initial investigation to the final resolution. Officials conducting proceedings undergo regular [training](#) on pertinent issues, ensuring they conduct investigations and hearings that prioritize fair and impartial processes and ensure victim safety. The University's procedures also ensure equal opportunities for advisors to accompany the parties involved during all phases of the disciplinary process. Additionally, these procedures mandate that both parties receive simultaneous written notifications regarding the outcomes of proceedings and the procedures available for appeal, promoting transparency and fairness throughout.

## **Disciplinary Actions**

### ***University Disciplinary Measures***

The University enforces a range of disciplinary actions for violations related to sexual assault, dating and domestic violence, and stalking. Disciplinary actions vary according to the severity and nature of the violation, and include but are limited to:

- Minor Disciplinary Actions — Verbal or written warnings, mandatory training or counseling, formal reprimands, and probation.
- Major Disciplinary Actions — Discharge, suspension, or demotion may be imposed for serious offenses.

### ***Employee Disciplinary Outcomes***

In accordance with the policies of the NC Office of State Human Resources, the Fair Labor Standards Act, and UNC System Policies, disciplinary actions for employees may include:

- Written Warning — Issued for job performance or conduct issues.
- Suspension Without Pay — Applied for continued poor performance or serious violations, involving temporary removal from duties.
- Demotion — Reduction in rank and salary for actions disrupting the workplace or threatening safety.
- Termination — Permanent separation from the University for severe offenses or safety concerns.

Employees are encouraged to consult [Employee Relations](#) of the Office of Human Resources for additional information.

## ***Student Conduct Disciplinary Actions***

The [Code of Student Conduct](#) outlines disciplinary outcomes for students who are found to have violated University policies. Disciplinary actions may include:

- Letter of Concern — Formal notification regarding a student's behavior.
- Disciplinary Warning — Official warning that further violations may lead to more severe consequences.
- Disciplinary Probation — Period of close monitoring with potential for suspension or expulsion for subsequent violations.
- Disciplinary Suspension — Temporary removal from the University, including a ban from all University premises and activities.
- Expulsion — Permanent separation from the University, with a ban from all premises and activities, and a record of expulsion on the student's transcript.
- Educational Outcomes — Additional educational requirements may be imposed alongside other disciplinary actions.

## ***Faculty Disciplinary Actions***

Faculty members are subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in the [Faculty Handbook](#), [Academic Affairs Standard Operating Procedures \("AASOPs"\)](#), [Chapter VI of The UNC Code](#), and related policies. Potential sanctions include:

- Administrative Leave with Pay — Temporary relief from duties with pay during an investigation or pending disciplinary decision.
- Demotion — Reduction in rank due to incompetence, neglect of duty, or misconduct.
- Formal Discharge — Termination for severe violations, including incompetence, neglect of duty, or serious misconduct.
- Non-disciplinary Separation — Termination due to medical conditions or other non-disciplinary reasons.
- Reassignment of Duties — Temporary reassignment during an investigation, not considered a disciplinary action.
- Suspension Without Pay — Temporary suspension for significant violations, with no immediate termination.

## ***Options Regarding Law Enforcement and CSAs***

Victims have several options regarding law enforcement and campus authorities. They can notify proper law enforcement authorities, including on-campus and local police, with assistance from APD. Alternatively, victims can choose not to notify law enforcement authorities.

## **Rights and Responsibilities for Protective Orders**

Law enforcement can assist with [Domestic Violence Protective Orders](#) and pursuing criminal charges. Contact the police department where the crime occurred, as cases are stronger when reported soon after the incident. If reported within three days, a forensic exam at the hospital may be requested to gather evidence.

Equal Opportunity can issue a [No Contact Directive for incidents](#) of dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking. Otherwise, the Office of the Dean of Students can issue this directive, which prohibits any form of contact between the involved parties.

App State's Equal Opportunity and the Office of the Dean of Students can provide information and supportive measures for victims of dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking, such as on-campus housing, transportation, parking adjustments, and class changes. These measures are available upon request, regardless of whether the victim reports the crime to the police.

## **Confidentiality and Recordkeeping**

The University will ensure that publicly available recordkeeping, including Clery Act reporting and disclosures, is completed without including personally identifying information about the victim. "Personally identifying information" or "personal information" refers to individually identifying information about an individual that is likely to disclose the identity and location of a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking. This includes a first and last name, a home or other physical address, contact information (such as postal, e-mail, or Internet protocol addresses, or telephone or facsimile numbers), a social security number, and any other information that in combination with any of these details, would serve to identify an individual.

## **Definitions in Applicable Jurisdiction**

### ***North Carolina Definitions***

In North Carolina, the legal definitions for various offenses related to sexual violence and domestic violence are outlined in the state statutes. The following are the encapsulated definitions for rape, sexual assault, domestic violence and stalking according to North Carolina law outlined in [North Carolina General Statutes-Chapter 14 Article 7B](#):

- Dating Violence — In North Carolina, dating violence is addressed under domestic violence laws when the parties are in a dating relationship. It involves physical harm, bodily injury, assault or the fear of such harm between individuals who have or have had a romantic relationship.
- Domestic Violence — [North Carolina General Statutes – Chapter 50B](#) defines domestic violence as the commission of one or more of the following acts upon an aggrieved party or upon a minor child residing with or in the custody of the aggrieved party by a person with whom the aggrieved party has or had a personal relationship through:
  - Attempting to cause bodily injury or intentionally causing bodily injury;

- Placing the aggrieved party or a member of the aggrieved party's family or household in fear of imminent serious bodily injury or continued harassment that rises to such a level as to inflict substantial emotional distress; or
- Committing any act defined in North Carolina's criminal statutes as a sexual offense or a sex-related crime.
- **Sexual Assault** — As defined by North Carolina law, includes any non-consensual sexual act which may involve force, threats or incapacitation. This includes but is not limited to rape and sexual battery as outlined in [North Carolina General Statutes § 14-27.20 through 14-27.33](#).

- § 14-27.21. First-Degree Forcible Rape

A person is guilty of first-degree forcible rape if they engage in vaginal intercourse with another person by force and against the person's will, and meet any of the following criteria:

- a) Employs or displays a dangerous or deadly weapon or an article that the other person reasonably believes to be a dangerous or deadly weapon.
- b) Inflicts serious personal injury upon the victim or another person.
- c) Commits the offense with the aid of one or more other persons.

Classification: Class B1 felony.

Upon conviction, the offender has no rights to custody of, or inheritance from, any child born as a result of the rape. The offender also has no rights related to the child under Chapter 48 or Subchapter 1 of Chapter 7B of the General Statutes.

- § 14-27.22. Second-Degree Forcible Rape

A person is guilty of second-degree forcible rape if they engage in vaginal intercourse with another person:

- a) By force and against the will of the other person; or
- b) With a person who is mentally disabled, mentally incapacitated, or physically helpless, and the person performing the act knows or should reasonably know this condition.

Classification: Class C felony.

Upon conviction, the offender has no rights to custody of, or inheritance from, any child conceived during the commission of the rape. The offender also has no rights related to the child under Chapter 48 or Subchapter 1 of Chapter 7B of the General Statutes.

- § 14-27.26. First-Degree Forcible Sexual Offense

A person is guilty of a first-degree forcible sexual offense if they engage in a sexual act with another person by force and against the person's will, and meet any of the following criteria:

- a) Employs or displays a dangerous or deadly weapon or an article that the other person reasonably believes to be a dangerous or deadly weapon.
- b) Inflicts serious personal injury upon the victim or another person.

- c) Commits the offense with the aid of one or more other persons.

Classification: Class B1 felony.

- o § 14-27.27. Second-Degree Forcible Sexual Offense

Definition: A person is guilty of a second-degree forcible sexual offense if they engage in a sexual act with another person:

- a) By force and against the will of the other person; or
- b) With a person who is mentally disabled, mentally incapacitated, or physically helpless, and the person performing the act knows or should reasonably know this condition.

Classification: Class C felony.

- Stalking — Stalking is defined as willfully engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for their safety or the safety of others or suffer substantial emotional distress. This may include actions such as following, surveilling or harassing the victim repeatedly over time. The legal definition of stalking in North Carolina is detailed in [North Carolina General Statute § 14-277.3A](#).
- Cyberstalking — In North Carolina, under [North Carolina General Statute § 14-196.3](#) addresses cyberstalking. It defines Electronic Communication as any transfer of information via technological systems such as wire, radio, or computer. The statute makes it illegal to use electronic communication to threaten harm, extort money, or repeatedly send abusive messages. It also prohibits making false statements through electronic means to abuse, annoy, or threaten someone and permits tracking devices to be installed or used without consent, with specific exceptions for authorized entities like law enforcement and vehicle owners. Violations are classified as Class 2 misdemeanors, with jurisdiction based on where the communication was sent, received, or viewed. The statute does not apply to nonviolent political expression or constitutionally protected activities.
- Consent — Consent is a pivotal element in North Carolina law concerning sexual activity, although it is not explicitly defined. In the context of sexual offenses, the legal requirement for consent includes either the absence of consent or the revocation of consent. Specifically, consent is deemed lacking if it is "without consent of the other person" or if it is "revoked by the other person in a manner that would cause a reasonable person to believe consent is revoked." Relevant statutes include North Carolina General Statutes [Sections 14-27.20 through 14-27.33](#), which address sexual offenses and consent within the context of those offenses.

These definitions are based on North Carolina state law and are subject to change. It is important to consult the latest legal statutes for the most accurate and up-to-date information.

## **Prevention and Awareness Programs**

App State employs multiple risk reduction programs. These strategies are designed to decrease perpetration and bystander inaction, increase victim empowerment to promote safety and help individuals and communities address conditions that facilitate violence.

## ***Bystander Intervention Programs***

Bystander intervention involves taking safe and positive actions to prevent harm or intervene in situations involving dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking. App State offers programs to empower individuals and promote a safe campus environment.

### **Appalachian Cares**

[Appalachian Cares](#) serves as the University's hub for wellness, health and safety resources, providing essential support to the campus community. The "It's Up to Me" campaign is centered on bystander awareness and intervention, emphasizing that everyone has the power to influence positive change in how we perceive and respond to issues of violence.

The Appalachian Cares mobile app keeps important safety information at your fingertips. It includes links and telephone numbers for APD, student health and counseling services, Safe Walk, local community resources and national hotlines. Download below for [Appalachian Cares for iOS](#) and [Appalachian Cares for Android](#).

### **Sport Psychology Services**

Sport Psychology Services at App State offers specialized bystander intervention training. This program focuses on helping teammates, identifying mental health warning signs, and having caring conversations. It aims to equip student-athletes with the skills to support their peers effectively and foster a supportive team environment.

### **The 3 Ds**

The 3 Ds of bystander intervention are practical strategies for effectively intervening in situations of potential abuse or harm:

1. Distract — Intervene by distracting the individuals involved to disrupt the abusive behavior.
  - Spill a drink
  - Ask the abuser for directions
  - Ask the victim to assist with a task
  - Inform the abuser that their car is being towed
2. Delegate — If you don't feel safe or comfortable intervening directly, seek assistance from others in a better position to help.
  - Inform a trusted professor or authority figure
  - Alert bartenders or security personnel
  - Ask the host of the event to step in
3. Direct — Address the abusive behavior directly, either with the victim or the potential abuser, safely and respectfully.
  - Check in with the victim and ask if they are okay
  - Clearly state that the behavior is inappropriate or threatening
  - Encourage the abuser to reconsider their actions

## ***Red Flag Campaign***

The Red Flag Campaign is a campus-wide initiative designed to educate people on how to be active bystanders and encourage them to speak up when they see a "red flag." These red flags include sexual misconduct, dating and domestic violence and stalking. The campaign features information exchanges, educational programs and training sessions to raise awareness and provide practical intervention skills.

## ***SEXplanations***

[Wellness and Prevention Services](#) provides educational information about the importance of sexual health and safer sex practices. Facilitated by members of [WeCARE](#), students will have the opportunity to participate in several activities involving risks associated with sexual activities, barrier methods and barrier negotiation skills with a partner(s) and sexual health resources available on and off campus.

## ***Wellness Jeopardy***

Wellness and Prevention Services presents general information regarding resources and services provided by Wellness and Prevention Services and additional campus partners available to students at App State. This program is meant to aid students in making informed decisions about their well-being during their time as students.

## ***Wellness Wednesday***

In April, Wellness and Prevention Service and other University campus partners come together every Wednesday to raise awareness for Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Featured events include Safer Sex Springfest, Sex in the Dark, Project Condom and Take Back the Night.

## ***Amnesty Policy – Code of Student Conduct***

The Amnesty Policy encourages students to seek help for themselves or others in situations involving substance use, relationship violence, sex-based misconduct, harassment, discrimination or other crimes. It protects from certain disciplinary actions, focusing instead on creating an educational action plan to address the behavior.

The amnesty applies to students seeking help for themselves from university officials or emergency personnel, as well as individuals seeking help on behalf of a student and staying to provide support (including the student receiving assistance). It also applies to students reporting violations of the Code of Student Conduct, Policy 110 or laws.

Amnesty does not apply to violations unrelated to the reason help was sought, such as the sale or distribution of drugs or alcohol, nor to students who do not seek assistance. It also does not apply when medical attention is requested by university faculty or staff while on duty or to students who do not engage with Student Conduct process.

To receive amnesty, students must complete an educational action plan. Failure to do so may result in registration, transcript and graduation holds. Amnesty does not prevent law enforcement action or reporting obligations under the law.



## ***It's Up to Me/Us***

Any situation that threatens physical harm to yourself or someone else should be assessed carefully. Through the Division of Student Affairs' campaign, [It's Up to Me/Us](#), App State students are encouraged never to hesitate to call the police if they need help to defuse a situation. It's Up to Me/Us emphasizes four primary messages:

- Be aware
- Ask and listen
- Have a plan
- Say something

## ***Victims' Assistance Program***

The [Victims' Assistance Program](#) is a collaborative program brought by the APD, Student Health Service, Student Affairs, Counseling and Psychological Services, and other campus offices provide tailored assistance to crime victims based on their specific needs and requests for information. Professional counselors are not required to report crimes to the police except when mandated by law. APD also ensures that crime victims who meet the criteria outlined in [North Carolina General Statute- Chapter 15A, Article 45A](#), are properly informed about the availability of medical services, crime victims' compensation funds, the contact details of the district attorney's office and the name and telephone number of the investigating officer. Additionally, APD provides information about the accused's pretrial release opportunities, contact information for updates on the accused's custody status, and notification of the accused's arrest within 72 hours.

## **Resources and Support Services**

### ***Counseling services for victims of sex offenses***

[Counseling and Psychological Service offers Sexual Assault Prevention and Treatment Services](#) and a variety of resources for treatment after sexual assault. Information regarding the sexual assault protocol is available on the website. They also provide numerous resources related to warning signs and definitions of sexual assault and abuse to educate the community and prevent sexual assaults in the future.

[The Interpersonal Violence Support and Prevention](#) Coordinator is available to assist students who have experienced or know someone who has experienced interpersonal violence.

### ***The Campus Assessment, Response, and Evaluation (CARE) Team***

[CARE Team](#) is dedicated to supporting students facing mental, social and emotional challenges. Comprising university administrators, the CARE Team meets regularly to identify, assess and respond to concerns or disruptive behaviors among students struggling academically, emotionally or psychologically or who may pose a risk to their or others' health and safety. The team aims to recognize early indicators of escalating or concerning behaviors to develop appropriate support measures, which may include referrals to campus or community resources. The CARE Team addresses a wide range of student-related



concerns, including but not limited to sexual violence, interpersonal violence, suicidal ideation, mental health issues, assault, arrest, family grief or any other significant event.

### ***Office of the Dean of Students: Case Management***

[Case Management](#) is a department within the Office of the Dean of Students that provides 360-degree individualized support to students, regardless of their identity, in navigating a variety of concerns. These concerns may include, but are not limited to, complex personal situations, extenuating circumstances, general welfare, sexual violence, interpersonal violence, health and wellness and safety concerns that impact students' academics and well-being.

### ***M.S. Shook Student Health Service***

[M.S. Shook Student Health Service](#) is a confidential source that meets the health needs of App State students. All registered full-time students who are currently attending class are eligible to receive care at Student Health Service. Students taking less than nine hours are eligible for services after paying the Student Health fee.

### **Additional On-Campus Resources**

#### ***Students***

- [Case Management](#)
- [Counseling and Psychological Services](#) (Confidential)
- [M.S. Shook Student Health Services](#) (Confidential)
- [Office of Student Conduct](#)
- [Student Legal Clinic](#) (Confidential)
- [University Ombuds](#) (Confidential)
- [Wellness and Prevention Services](#)

#### ***Employees***

- [Counseling for Faculty and Staff](#) (Confidential)
- [Human Resources](#)
- [Employee Assistance Program](#)
- [University Ombuds](#) (Confidential)

### ***Off-Campus Resources***

- [Legal Aid of NC](#)
- [North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence](#)
- [North Carolina Coalition Against Sexual Assault](#)

- [RAINN: \(Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network\)](#)
- [Sexual Assault Forensic Exam](#)
- [Rape Victim Assistance Program](#)
- [Crime Victim Compensation](#)
- [Domestic Violence Protective Order](#)

### **Boone, NC, and the High Country**

- [OASIS](#) - Opposing Abuse with Service, Information and Shelter (domestic violence and sexual assault support services)
- [Watauga Medical Center](#)

### **Hickory Lenoir, and Morganton, NC Metropolitan**

- [Catawba Valley Health System](#)
- [Family Guidance Center](#) (domestic violence and sexual assault support services)
- [Frye Regional Medical Center](#)

### **North Carolina Sex Offender Registry**

North Carolina law requires sex offenders to register with the county sheriff, who maintains a public registry including their name, sex, address, physical description, picture, conviction date, offense, sentence, and registration status. Non-resident students or workers subject to the North Carolina Sex Offender Registry must also register with the county sheriff where they work or attend school and provide information about their school or workplace. The Registry can be accessed at:

- [North Carolina Sex Offender and Public Protection Registry](#)

The North Carolina Sex Offender Registry serves as a resource to help protect and inform the public. It can be accessed at the Watauga County Sheriff's Office or directly online at:

- [APD: North Carolina Sex Offender Registry](#)
- [Watauga County Sheriff's Sex Offender Registry](#)
- [Catawba County Sex Offender Registry/Locator](#)

## **Missing Person Protocol**

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### **Missing Student Notification**

App State follows specific protocols for reporting and responding to cases of missing persons involving students.

### ***Reporting a Missing Student***

Parents, fellow students, friends, and community members who believe a student is missing should notify the following offices immediately:

- Appalachian State University Police Department (APD) — 828-262-8000
- Office of the Dean of Students — 828-262-2060
- University Housing — 828-262-2160

All missing person reports should be immediately directed to APD. APD will determine which law enforcement agency has jurisdiction. If APD does not have jurisdiction, they will notify the appropriate off-campus agency and assist as needed in the investigation.

### ***On-Campus Residential Student Contact Registration***

Students residing on campus should register a confidential contact person with University Housing during move-in.

The contact information will be registered confidentially, accessible only to authorized university officials, and disclosed to law enforcement personnel in furtherance of a missing person report. For students under 18 years of age and not emancipated, the University must notify the student's custodial parent or guardian within 24 hours after determining the student is missing.

### ***University and Law Enforcement Procedures***

APD will notify the student's designated contact person if one has been registered.

If the student is under 18 years of age and not emancipated, APD will also notify the custodial parent or guardian.

Local law enforcement will be informed no later than 24 hours of the determination, unless they were the entity that made the determination.

If a student is reported missing before 24 hours have elapsed, APD will take action immediately in accordance with North Carolina [General Statute § 143B-1015](#) by notifying the appropriate parties and beginning the investigation. This is in accordance with North Carolina's statutory requirement that no waiting period can be enforced before accepting a missing person report.

## **Student Death Protocol**

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In the event of a student death, the University will follow University [Policy 403.4 Student Death Policy](#) and [Student Death Protocol](#). A student death impacts the entire university community, as well as the family and friends.

## **Annual Campus Fire Safety Report**

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This section provides a detailed description of App State's fire safety policies and prevention programs. The report outlines fire safety practices and standards and provides statistics related to fire incidents in on-campus housing. It includes comprehensive information on our fire safety measures, such as the maintenance of our fire log and the fire detection and suppression equipment in our residence halls.

## Fire Log

APD maintains the [Fire Log](#) that records all incidents reported to the department in coordination with App State's Fire Marshal and EHS&EM. This includes any fires that occur in on-campus student housing facilities. Each entry in the log consists of the date the fire was reported, the nature of the fire, the date and time, and the general location of the fire. The Fire Log is accessible to the public and members of the press. For further details about the Fire Log, contact the EHS&EM safety office at 828-262-4008.

## On-Campus Student Housing Fire Detection and Suppression Equipment

All residence halls at App State are equipped with automatic fire alarms and sprinkler systems, which EHS&EM and APD remotely monitor. An external vendor performs annual inspections to ensure these systems function properly. Additionally, fire extinguishers are provided in all residence halls and are serviced annually by an outside vendor. University personnel also conduct monthly checks of fire extinguishers to maintain safety standards.

### App State's On-campus Housing Facilities – Fire Protection Systems 2023

Boone Campus					
Residential Facilities	Fire Alarm	Sprinkler System	Smoke Detection	Fire Extinguishers	Number of Evacuation (Fire) Drills Each Calendar Year*
Appalachian Hall	X	X	X	X	1
Appalachian Heights	X	X	X	X	4
Belk Hall	X	X	X	X	4
Cannon Hall	X	X	X	X	4
Cone Hall	X	X	X	X	4
Dogwood Hall	X	X	X	X	4
Doughton Hall	X	X	X	X	4
Elkstone Hall	X	X	X	X	4
Frank Hall	X	X	X	X	4
Laurel Creek Hall	X	X	X	X	4
Living Learning Center (LLC)	X	X	X	X	4
Mountain Laurel Hall	X	X	X	X	4
Mountaineer Hall	X	X	X	X	4
New River Hall	X	X	X	X	4
Newland Hall	X	X	X	X	4

Raven Rocks Hall	X	X	X	X	4
Sleep Inn	X	X	X	X	1
Summit Hall	X	X	X	X	4
Thunder Hill Hall	X	X	X	X	4
White Hall	X	X	X	X	4

## Fire Safety Responsibility

### *Reporting Fires*

All fires, no matter how small, should be reported to the Boone or Hickory Fire Department, EHS&EM—Fire & EMS Division, and APD immediately, even if the fire has been extinguished.

### Emergency

- On and Off Campus: 911

Non-emergency:

- On-campus: EHS&EM 828-262-4008
- Off-campus: Contact your local fire department

### App State's EHS&EM - Fire & EMS Division

EHS&EM [Fire Division](#) at App State coordinates with other university departments to support App State's commitment to campus safety. While fires are rare on campus, they do occur. Prevention is the key to fire safety. Remember, it only takes a few minutes for a small flame to become an out-of-control fire that consumes an entire room, office, building or other space.

### Boone Fire and Hickory Fire Department

- Boone Fire Department covers a 40.5-square-mile area, including App State's Boone campus and Leon Levine Hall, the Town of Boone and its surroundings.
- Hickory Fire Department covers a 29.5-square-mile area, including App State's Hickory campus, the Town of Hickory, and its surroundings.

Both departments provide fire protection and aim to minimize fire and hazard risks through prevention, rescue, suppression, investigation and arson mitigation services.

### Fire Safety Preparedness

Be prepared. Keep emergency numbers posted by your telephone. Know the locations of fire extinguishers, fire alarm pull stations, and building exit routes.

Keep your work area neat and minimize combustibles such as paper and trash. Do not place or store items in hallways, stairwells or exit ways. Keep these areas clear for quick and safe egress. Do not wedge/prop open stairs or fire-rated doors. These doors help protect you and the building from smoke and fire in an emergency.

Use extension cords for temporary needs only. Do not overload outlets or run cords under carpeting or through doorways. Items such as candles, incense, and oil lamps are prohibited in academic buildings.

If you have any questions about fire safety in your area, contact [App State's Fire Marshal](#) at 828-262-4007 or call 828-262-4008.

## **Fire Prevention and Emergency Action Policy**

Simple steps can help keep you and those around you safe by preventing a fire, and everyone should review the [University Open Flame Policy](#). While on campus, remember that items with an open flame (such as candles) or an open heat source (such as hot plates) are prohibited. Household extension cords should never be used; only commercial extension cords are approved for temporary use. Keep your workspace or living area clean, allowing 36 inches of space around any heat source (such as a space heater). Ensure that boxes, bags, or other items do not block emergency exits. Finally, you should never leave any food being cooked unattended, including food being prepared in microwave ovens.

While off campus, many of the same rules used on campus apply in the same ways. While items such as candles may not be prohibited, they can still be dangerous if not used properly. Never leave open flames or heat sources unattended. Items such as household extension cords can pose a fire hazard and should be avoided. Remember to check your smoke detectors and replace the batteries regularly.

The emergency evacuation procedures are in the University Policy Manual under [Fire Prevention and Emergency Action](#).

## ***Fire Alarm and Evacuation Procedures***

In the event of a fire alarm, occupants must immediately evacuate the building and proceed to their predetermined evacuation assembly area. Await instructions from residence hall staff or emergency personnel.

- If you discover fire, smoke or hear an alarm, evacuate immediately and treat the situation as an emergency.
- All occupants must evacuate during all alarm situations, including fire drills.
- If there is a fire, activate the alarm system if it has not been already, and call 911 (or 9-911 from campus phones) as you evacuate.
- If activating the alarm or warning others is unsafe, evacuate immediately and move to a safe, unaffected location and away from the impacted building before calling 911.
- After calling 911, provide details about the emergency to the dispatcher. If a phone is unavailable, use any campus Blue Light Emergency Telephone.
- Inform arriving emergency personnel of any occupants still inside the building, such as those who may not be able to evacuate or are unaccounted for.
- Provide keys to emergency personnel if requested.
- Remain outside the building until officials declare it safe to return.

## ***Fire Watch Procedures***

If a fire alarm or sprinkler system is disabled or out of service, a fire watch must be conducted. Staff members will monitor for hazardous conditions such as smoke or fire. If smoke, fire or other emergencies are observed, immediately call 911 (or 9-911 from campus phones) and follow the fire alarm procedures in [App State's Fire Protection System Impairment Guidelines](#).

## ***Fire Prevention for University Housing***

### **App State's University Housing Policies**

- Smoking — All residence halls are smoke-free environments. Smoking, including e-cigarettes, is prohibited inside and is only permitted in designated areas on campus.
- Fire Doors — Keep fire doors closed unless equipped with electromagnets. Fire doors are essential for preventing the spread of smoke and fire.
- Obstructing Passageways — Blocking corridors, breezeways or stairways is prohibited.
- Fire Alarm Equipment — Do not tamper with or obstruct fire alarm equipment. Report any issues immediately to University Housing staff.
- Cooking — Personal microwaves are not allowed in community kitchens or spaces. Only one microwave per room is allowed, not exceeding 1200 watts or ten amps. Do not leave food unattended while cooking. Practice safe cooking habits to avoid unnecessary fire alarms.
  - Appliances — Exposed heating elements, such as hot plates, toasters, and coffee pots, are prohibited.

### **Prohibited Items**

- Posting and Decorations — Follow guidelines for posting notices and decorating to avoid fire hazards. Use non-combustible materials and do not obstruct fire safety equipment.
- Grilling — Grills must be 10 feet from residence halls and other combustible materials. Do not store propane, charcoal, or lighter fluid inside residence halls.
- Bicycles and Motor Vehicles — Do not store bicycles, motorcycles, mopeds, or hoverboards in stairwells, hallways, or fire exits. Use designated bicycle racks.
- Halogen lamps, salt lamps, lava lamps, multi-bulb floor lamps with plastic shades, and 3-D printers are prohibited.
- Use electrical cords and outlets safely. Do not overload outlets. Use UL-approved power strips with circuit breakers.
- Open flame devices, including candles, incense burners, and oil lamps, are prohibited in residence halls.
- Items such as candles, incense, flammable liquids, fireworks, fire pits, and hazardous chemicals are prohibited in residence halls.

### **Holiday Decorating Guidelines for On-Campus Housing**

- Decorations are allowed only in lounge areas.

- Do not hang or display items in hallways, corridors, or stairwells.
- Keep exit doors and fire safety equipment clear and accessible.
- Use non-combustible or flame-retardant materials.
- Limit decorations to 10% of any wall area.
- Use UL-approved lights and ensure they are in good condition.
- Do not place cords through doorways or under carpets.
- Remove decorations before leaving for winter break.

## **Fire Protection Features**

### ***Fire Drills***

Fire drills are conducted in each campus building equipped with a fire alarm system. Drills are normally coordinated through department directors, deans, or chairpersons; every effort will be made to minimize disruptions to normal operations. During a fire drill, occupants must evacuate and familiarize themselves with the emergency evacuation procedures in the University Policy Manual on Fire Prevention and Emergency Action.

Any questions regarding fire drills should be directed to the Fire Marshal by calling 828-262-4008.

The following schedule details fire drill frequency per building type:

- Monthly - Educational (App State Child Development Center, Lucy Brock)
- Quarterly - Residence halls, assembly buildings (Belk Library Commons, Broyhill Music, Central Dining Hall, The Schaefer Center for the Performing Arts, Holmes Convocation Center, Kidd Brewer Stadium, Living Learning Center's Academic Wing, McKinney Alumni Center, Plemmons Student Union, Quinn Recreation Center, Sofield Indoor Practice Facility, Student Recreation Center, Trivette Hall, Turchin Visual Arts Center, Valborg Theater and Varsity Gymnasium)
- Annually - Academic/support buildings.

### ***Inspections***

Residence hall rooms and common areas are inspected at least once per semester for health and safety by residence hall staff members. Students are given advance notice of at least 48 hours. If violations are found, the student is given written notification, including a specified time frame for remedying the situation. Failure to remedy the situation by the written deadline may result in confiscation of any prohibited items and/or disciplinary action.

A representative from the N.C. Department of Insurance/Office of State Fire Marshal conducts an annual fire and life safety inspection of campus properties in conjunction with App State's Office of EHS&EM. Supplemental inspections may be performed by EHS&EM personnel and the N.C. Department of Insurance/Office of State Fire Marshal.



## **Building Maintenance**

Any unsafe hazard or condition in residence hall facilities should be reported to University Housing for correction. Corrections are made by University Housing personnel, Facilities Operations, Information Technology Service personnel, or, if necessary, outside vendors.

## **Fire Safety Education**

During orientation, EHS&EM provides fire safety awareness training for residence hall staff members. Topics addressed during this training include evacuation, fire alarms/fire drills, reporting fires, fire safety rules and regulations, and fire alarm panels/intercom/fire watch. The Boone Fire Department also provides annual fire extinguisher training for residence hall staff in Boone.

Residence hall staff can request supplemental fire safety/extinguisher training sessions as part of their programming activities. EHS&EM may offer additional opportunities for fire extinguisher training to the campus community in conjunction with the local fire department (e.g., the University's Health, Wellness, and Safety Festival in Boone).

EHS&EM offers emergency preparedness training to all University departments, colleges, units, groups, and areas. Training programs may be designed around the area's unique needs or provide standardized material. To request a training program, contact the EHS&EM office at 828-262-4008.

Examples of training programs:

- Preparedness 101 - Basic Emergency Preparedness
- Customized courses in coordination with Boone Fire Department and others

## **Student Housing Fire Statistics**

Hickory and the Appalachian Centers do not offer on-campus residential student housing.

<b>Boone Campus</b>							
<b>Residential Facilities</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Total Fire</b>	<b>Fire Number</b>	<b>Cause of Fire</b>	<b>Injuries Treated at Medical Facility</b>	<b>Number of Deaths</b>	<b>Property Damage Value</b>
Appalachian Hall	2021	0	0	NA	NA	NA	NA
	2022	0	0	NA	NA	NA	NA
	2023	0	0	NA	NA	NA	NA
Appalachian Heights	2021	0	0	NA	NA	NA	NA
	2022	0	0	NA	NA	NA	NA
	2023	0	0	NA	NA	NA	NA
Belk Hall	2021	0	0	NA	NA	NA	NA
	2022	0	0	NA	NA	NA	NA
	2023	0	0	NA	NA	NA	NA
Cannon Hall	2021	0	0	NA	NA	NA	NA
	2022	0	0	NA	NA	NA	NA
	2023	0	0	NA	NA	NA	NA

Cone Hall	2021	0	0	NA	NA	NA	NA
	2022	0	0	NA	NA	NA	NA
	2023	0	0	NA	NA	NA	NA
Dogwood Hall	2021	0	0	NA	NA	NA	NA
	2022	0	0	NA	NA	NA	NA
	2023	0	0	NA	NA	NA	NA
Doughton Hall	2021	0	0	NA	NA	NA	NA
	2022	0	0	NA	NA	NA	NA
	2023	0	0	NA	NA	NA	NA
Elkstone Hall	2021	0	0	NA	NA	NA	NA
	2022	0	0	NA	NA	NA	NA
	2023	0	0	NA	NA	NA	NA
Frank Hall	2021	0	0	NA	NA	NA	NA
	2022	0	0	NA	NA	NA	NA
	2023	0	0	NA	NA	NA	NA
Laurel Creek Hall	2021	0	0	NA	NA	NA	NA
	2022	0	0	NA	NA	NA	NA
	2023	0	0	NA	NA	NA	NA
Living Learning Center (LLC)	2021	0	0	NA	NA	NA	NA
	2022	0	0	NA	NA	NA	NA
	2023	0	0	NA	NA	NA	NA
Mountain Laurel Hall	2021	0	0	NA	NA	NA	NA
	2022	0	0	NA	NA	NA	NA
	2023	0	0	NA	NA	NA	NA
Mountaineer Hall	2021	1	1	Cooking – Grease Fire on the Stove	0	0	\$100-\$999
	2022	0	0	NA	NA	NA	NA
	2023	0	0	NA	NA	NA	NA
New River Hall	2021	0	0	NA	NA	NA	NA
	2022	0	0	NA	NA	NA	NA
	2023	1	1	Undetermined Fire - Fire in Trash Can	0	0	\$1000-\$9999
Newland Hall	2021	0	0	NA	NA	NA	NA
	2022	0	0	NA	NA	NA	NA
	2023	0	0	NA	NA	NA	NA
Raven Rocks Hall	2021	1	1	Machinery – Fire Inside Laundry Dryer	0	0	\$1000-\$9999
	2022	0	0	NA	NA	NA	NA
	2023	0	0	NA	NA	NA	NA
Sleep Inn	2021	0	0	NA	NA	NA	NA
	2022	0	0	NA	NA	NA	NA
	2023	0	0	NA	NA	NA	NA

Summit Hall	2021	0	0	NA	NA	NA	NA
	2022	0	0	NA	NA	NA	NA
	2023	0	0	NA	NA	NA	NA
Thunder Hill Hall	2021	0	0	NA	NA	NA	NA
	2022	0	0	NA	NA	NA	NA
	2023	0	0	NA	NA	NA	NA
White Hall	2021	0	0	NA	NA	NA	NA
	2022	0	0	NA	NA	NA	NA
	2023	0	0	NA	NA	NA	NA

## Future Improvements

App State continuously evaluates its fire safety measures and plans for enhancements as needed. Fire safety improvements are planned for select residential halls, and fire safety training programs for students and staff are continuously offered and reviewed for areas of improvement.

## Conclusion

As we conclude this report, App State reaffirms our commitment to fostering a safe and inclusive environment at App State in Boone and Hickory. The safety and well-being of our community members remain our highest priority. Through collaboration with our dedicated staff, public safety partners, and the campus community, we continue implementing proactive measures to enhance campus security and fire safety. By working together, we can further strengthen our efforts to prevent crime, promote safety, and uphold our commitment to student success.



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Links within this report may no longer work correctly if they are changed or updated after publication. Use a search engine for updated information or contact the Office of Access & Equity: Equal Opportunity for assistance.

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